

Standards Committee – 22nd June, 2010

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Politically Restricted Posts

Purpose of Report

1. To advise the Committee on the production of a list of Politically Restricted Posts as required by Section 30 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Background

2. On 12th April, 2010, I submitted a report on the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 relating to Politically Restricted Posts. The Committee endorsed the adoption of an amended Policy to take account of the legislative changes and guidance. This included a recommended change to the terms of reference of the Standards Committee to determine appeals from employees of the Council concerning their inclusion in the list of politically restricted posts. The Council approved this amendment at its annual meeting held on 20th May, 2010.
3. The Council is under a duty to produce, and regularly update, a list of those posts which are Politically Restricted. As previously reported, these fall into two broad categories ie: "Specified Posts" and "Sensitive Posts". Employees who fall into the category of "Specified Posts" are politically restricted without rights of appeal the Standards Committee. Employees who are included in the list of "Sensitive Posts" do, however, have a right to appeal to the Standards Committee on the grounds that the Authority has wrongly applied the criteria.
4. At its last meeting, the Committee requested that I submit a further report following the completion of the list comprising "Sensitive Posts", as determined by each Directorate of the Council. This list will be available for circulation to Members of the Standards Committee at the meeting.

Finance

5. There are no direct additional financial implications arising from this report. It is unlikely that the addition of an appeals process will generate significant additional workload for the Standards Committee and as such this will be undertaken from within existing resources. The Monitoring Officer will submit a further report should circumstances change

Law

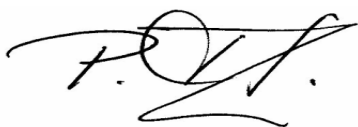
6. This report is in compliance with Section 30 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and associated guidance.

Equality Impact

7. The content of this report complies with the Council's policies on equality and diversity. Any individual appeals will be dealt with in accordance with the principles of equality and fairness.

Recommendation

8. That the list of Politically Restricted Posts be received and noted.



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Philip Tart
Monitoring Officer

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Background Papers

Minute No. 30 of the Standards Committee dated 12th April, 2010 and the associated report submitted to that meeting.